7/3/86 S8895-1

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 23 NO. 6 JUNE 1986

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Mar. '86	Apr. '86
Labor Force	252,145	253,332
Employment	225,434	226,008
Unemployment	26,711	27,324
Rate (Raw)	10.6	10.8
Rate (S.A.)	9.2	9.4
Mining-Hourly Wage	$13.90	$14.33
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.1	41.0
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.2	7.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.28	$12.34
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.4	42.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	326.0	325.3
Denver (Bimonthly)	355.7	
Year Change (U.S.)	+2.3	+1.6

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of* Trends *be sure to see these articles

— Wyoming Fourth Quarter 1985 Wages up 6.7 Percent
— Many Jobs Go Begging
— Illiteracy—The Most Formidable Barrier to Employment—Part One
— Wyoming's Per Capita Personal Income

THE NATION

In April, the number of unemployed continued to fall in the U.S., down 77,000 from March to 8.3 million. The civilian unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, stood at 7.1 percent, down slightly from the March rate of 7.2 percent and the April 1985 rate of 7.3 percent. The U.S. had an average annual rate of 7.2 percent in 1985, down from 7.5 percent in 1984.

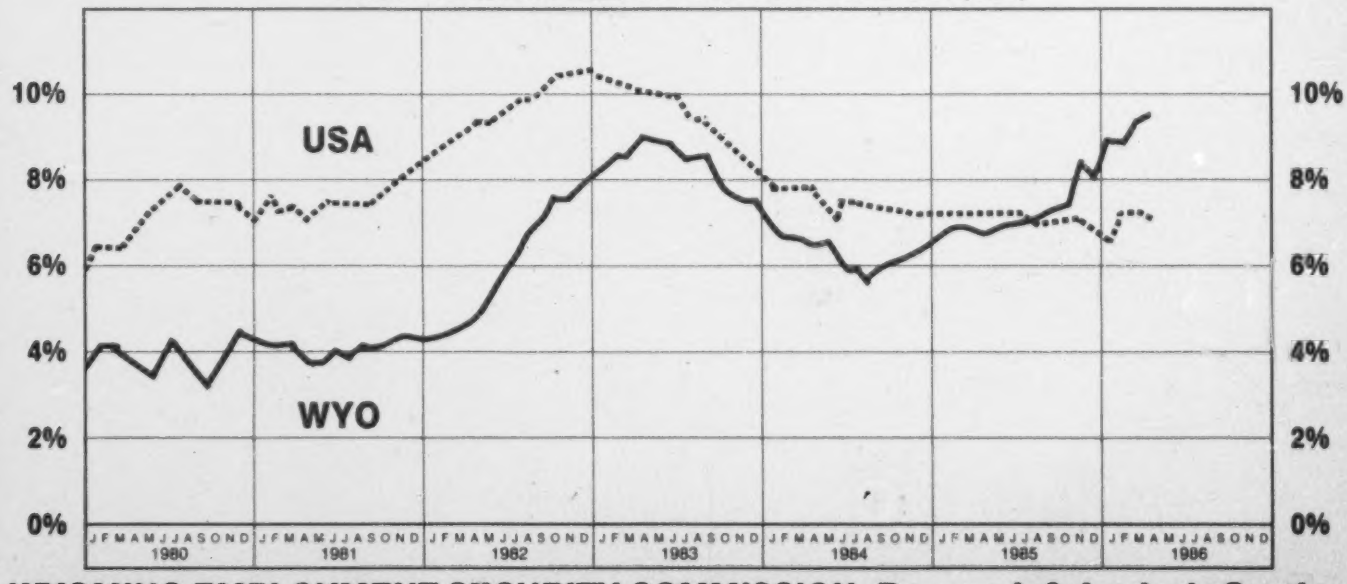
Rates for adult men in April (6.0 percent) and women (6.4 percent) were down from both the previous month and year in the nation.

IN WYOMING

In contrast to the downward trend in the national jobless rate, Wyoming's unemployment continued its upward spiral in April. The April 1986 seasonally adjusted unem-

Continued on Page 2

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In Wyoming—Continued

ployment rate rose to 9.4 percent, over two percentage points above the U.S. rate and compares to 9.2 percent in March and 6.7 percent in April 1985.

The unemployment estimate for April in Wyoming is at a record high, with more than 27,300 people looking for work in a depressed economy victimized by falling energy prices. The April unadjusted unemployment rate registered 10.8 percent, up from 10.6 percent in March and 7.7 percent in April 1985. The March statewide unemployment rate gave Wyoming the highest unemployment in the western U.S. and ranked it fifth highest in the nation. Louisiana, another oil producing state had the highest unemployment in the nation at 13.1 percent and New Hampshire had the lowest at 3.8 percent.

The statewide labor force stood at 253,300, up 2.8 percent over the year. The employed labor force, total workers, declined by almost 1,500 annually and was down 12,000 workers from April 1982.

Industrial sectors with notable annual employment declines include oil & gas exploration and oil field services, retail trade, and transportation. Noteworthy worker gains did occur in the services and government. The remaining industrial sectors were relatively stable.

AREA TRENDS

In April, 17 of Wyoming's 23 counties recorded double-digit unemployment rates. Uinta County, at 15.1 percent had the highest rate followed by Big Horn and Fremont counties at 14.4 and 14.1 percent. The Casper area, Natrona County, continued a longstanding trend of having the greatest number of jobseekers with almost 4,600 unemployed and a rate of 12.7 percent. Albany and Laramie counties continued with the lowest unemployment of 6.2 and 7.1 percent. Only Albany County registered a jobless rate below the seasonally unadjusted U.S. April rate of 7.0 percent.

WYOMING FOURTH QUARTER 1985 WAGES UP 6.7 PERCENT

Recently compiled employer contribution data indicates a quarterly gain of 6.7 percent in the average weekly wage for the fourth quarter of 1985. The all industry average of $376.80 a week, about $19,600 a year, included over 16,500 firms employing around 196,000 workers covered by Wyoming's Unemployment Insurance Law.

Total payroll for October through December 1985 was $954,694,182 which compares to $900,528,458 recorded for the same period during 1984. And, although the total payroll increased by $54,165,724, the number of employers decreased by 90 over the year.

MANY JOBS GO BEGGING

Companies in the service industry are having the toughest time since the late 1960's filling entry-level positions, those low-paying, low-skill jobs typically held by teenagers and women. Fast-food chains, convenience stores, and groceries have the most unfilled slots; department stores, hotels, and temporary-help agencies are also coming up shorthanded.

The long-run problem is that the demand for entry-level workers is rising even as the supply shrinks. Services and retail sales will add nine million jobs in the next ten years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest employment projections, and the percentage of entry-level jobs in the total economy will remain about the same at 20 percent. Because of the baby bust, however, the pool of 16 to 24-year-old workers who typically take those jobs will shrink from the current 21 percent of the labor force to only 15 percent.

The number of teenagers, who make up 20 percent of the work force in retail sales and 85 percent in fast food has already declined by 2.3 million since 1981. Women who took the low-paying part-time jobs are moving up the ladder, and fewer young ones are coming along to replace them. Nor are the immigrants likely to fill the void. Legal immigration will remain flat at around 600,000 people a year, and Congress is continuing to press for tighter controls over illegal immigration.

These scarcities partly reflect the 40-month economic expansion that will force service industry companies to struggle to fill vancancies for years to come.

SOURCE: *Fortune*, March 17, 1986.

ILLITERACY : THE MOST FORMIDABLE BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT

(This is part one of a three-part series on Illiteracy)

According to this article taken from the National Governors' Association Labor Notes, recent studies show approximately 20 percent of adults are functionally illiterate and thus do not have the basic reading, writing and computational skills needed to function in our society. The problem is particularly severe for adult minorities since approximately 44 percent of blacks and 56 percent of Hispanics are classified as either total, functional, or marginal non-readers. Moreover, according to the U.S. Department of Education, the problem is being perpetuated with 13 percent of the U.S. high school graduates failing to reach reading and writing competence beyond the sixth-grade level, plus 1.3 million non-English speaking arrivals each year. However, it should be noted that estimates of the number of functionally illiterate vary considerably, although even the conservative estimates are still exceedingly large.

This literacy problem exists at a time when fewer jobs exist for those with little or no education. Furthermore, many of the jobs associated with the modern workplace demand higher order analytical, reading, writing and computational skills. Even the lower entry level jobs demand a measure of literacy: cleaning crews must be able to read schedules and basic instructions; and all employees must fill out forms, and sign papers.

The message for everyone involved in employment and train-

Continued on Page 3

Illiteracy—Continued

ing is clear: Remedial education must be considered as an indispensable component of any effective employment and training strategy for the states; a fully literate work force is the key to creating a favorable climate for economic growth. Unless something is done today to stem the adult illiteracy problem, it will be perpetuated for at least another generation.

Job and living requirements for literacy are changing. A 5th grade reading level, once thought to be sufficient for functional literacy, is no longer adequate. A 10th-12th grade reading level is becoming the norm for many jobs in the U.S. The range of literacy is also broadening. Reading, writing and computing have been joined by information and data manipulation, mathematics, and technological literacy. Problem solving and the skills of critical thinking are becoming commonplace in many jobs that did not require them in the past, and are an integral part of most new jobs. Daily life in a technologically advanced society imposes added functional literacy requirements imposed by increased automation of services like banking or insurance, sophisticated pricing and credit, and the larger and increasingly complex institutions with whom we must deal. The report suggests that learning to read need not be carried out through formal training, but that workers can acquire the necessary tools to learn on their own as job requirements change.

WYOMING'S PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

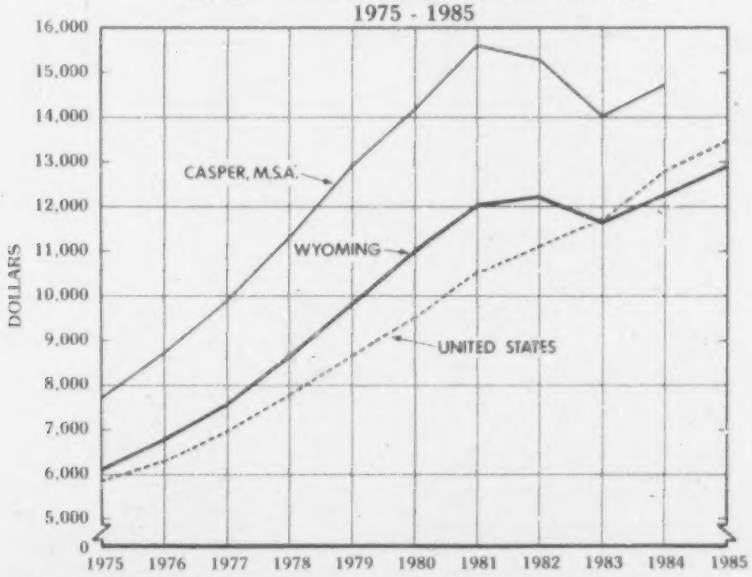
In May the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis released per capita personal income data for Wyoming for 1985. Annual per capita income for Wyoming in 1985 was $12,955. This was a 5.9 percent increase over 1984. However, Wyoming's figure is $496 short of the national average of $13,451, and continues a three-year trend of decreasing value relative to the national average.

When compared to other states, Wyoming ranked 26th in 1985. Alaska had the highest per capita income with $17,756, while Mississippi ranked 50th with $9,035.

In 1985, per capita personal income in the Rocky Mountain region (includes Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Utah) was $12,377 - 8 percent ($1,074) below the national average. Per capita personal income was below the national average in each Rocky Mountain state except Colorado.

Per capita income is computed by dividing the total personal income by the resident population of an area as of July 1. This measure of income serves as an indicator of the quality of consumer markets and of the economic well-being of the residents of an area. This measure can vary and should be used with caution.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME
UNITED STATES, WYOMING, AND CASPER
1975 - 1985



*Metropolitan Statistical Area
Information not available for Casper, 1985
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, May, 1986.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
April 1986	325.3	308.5	358.0	272.3	207.3	303.3	428.0
Annual % Change	1.6	2.3	3.5	3.4	0.7	- 5.2	7.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	APR 1986 [1]	MAR 1986 [1]	APR 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	253,332	252,145	246,464	0.5	2.8
Unemployment	27,324	26,711	18,974	2.3	44.0
Employed Labor Force	226,008	225,434	227,490	0.3	- 0.7
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	185,590	184,300	184,564	0.7	0.6
b. Agriculture[3]	9,593	7,928	9,770	21.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	10.8% 9.4%*	10.6% 9.2%*	7.7% 6.7%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.0% 7.1%*	7.5% 7.2%*	7.1% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	4.6%	4.5%	3.0%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 587.53	$ 599.09	$ 580.05	- 1.9	1.3
Average Weekly Hours	41.0	43.1	41.7	- 4.9	- 1.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.33	$ 13.90	$ 13.91	3.1	3.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	45,093	42,000	29,541	7.4	52.6
a. Initial	5,624	4,448	3,149	26.4	78.6
Weeks Compensated	38,530	32,463	24,966	18.7	54.3
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 6,184,228	$ 5,151,362	$ 3,702,370	20.1	67.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 160.18	$ 158.32	$ 147.55	1.2	8.6
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	4,166	4,349	3,071	- 4.2	35.7
Non-Ag. Openings Received	2,248	2,220	2,712	1.3	- 17.1
Non-Ag. Placements	1,884	1,911	2,207	- 1.4	- 14.6
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 521.98	$ 520.67	$ 516.57	0.3	1.0
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	42.4	43.3	- 0.2	- 2.3
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.34	$ 12.28	$ 11.93	0.5	3.4
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	325.3	326.0	320.1	- 0.2	1.6
Producer Prices, All Commodities	297.9	300.3	309.3	- 0.8	- 3.7
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	308.5	307.8	301.6	0.2	2.3

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	APR 1986	MAR 1986	APR 1985	%CHANGE MAR-APR	%CHANGE APR-APR	APR 1986	MAR 1986	APR 1985	APR 1986	MAR 1986	APR 1985
Statewide	253,332	252,145	246,464	0.5	2.8	27,324	26,711	18,974	10.8	10.6	7.7
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.4	9.2	6.7
Albany	15,822	15,870	15,699	- 0.3	0.8	985	1,108	773	6.2	7.0	4.9
Big Horn	4,879	4,785	4,972	2.0	- 1.9	701	731	500	14.4	15.3	10.1
Campbell	20,210	20,261	18,768	- 0.3	7.7	2,385	2,152	1,424	11.8	10.6	7.6
Carbon	8,355	8,403	8,631	- 0.6	- 3.2	1,108	1,141	829	13.3	13.6	9.6
Converse	6,560	6,443	6,573	1.8	- 0.2	903	828	690	13.8	12.8	10.5
Crook	3,044	2,871	2,977	6.0	2.3	323	359	166	10.6	12.5	5.6
Fremont	16,959	16,650	17,077	1.9	- 0.7	2,393	2,333	1,885	14.1	14.0	11.0
Goshen	6,058	5,773	6,150	4.9	- 1.5	483	492	345	8.0	8.5	5.6
Hot Springs	3,071	2,868	3,168	7.1	- 3.1	332	296	191	10.8	10.3	6.0
Johnson	3,184	3,247	3,394	- 1.9	- 6.2	360	402	245	11.3	12.4	7.2
Laramie	35,197	35,464	33,684	- 0.8	4.5	2,502	2,700	1,941	7.1	7.6	5.8
Lincoln	9,406	8,997	7,472	4.5	25.9	1,066	988	727	11.3	11.0	9.7
Natrona	36,107	36,431	36,534	- 0.9	- 1.2	4,585	4,175	2,976	12.7	11.5	8.1
Niobrara	1,676	1,555	1,776	7.8	- 5.6	201	207	201	12.0	13.3	11.3
Park	13,318	13,117	12,555	1.5	6.1	1,590	1,581	925	11.9	12.1	7.4
Platte	3,673	3,645	3,758	0.8	- 2.3	392	430	298	10.7	11.8	7.9
Sheridan	12,886	12,833	13,299	0.4	- 3.1	1,126	1,245	1,151	8.7	9.7	8.7
Sublette	3,692	3,576	3,169	3.2	16.5	324	272	176	8.8	7.6	5.5
Sweetwater	21,882	21,829	20,369	0.2	7.4	2,020	2,054	1,337	9.2	9.4	6.6
Teton	7,019	7,573	6,739	- 7.3	4.2	712	584	595	10.1	7.7	8.8
Uinta	11,974	11,684	11,193	2.5	7.0	1,807	1,664	971	15.1	14.2	8.7
Washakie	4,915	4,870	4,925	0.9	- 0.2	569	588	351	11.6	12.1	7.1
Weston	3,443	3,402	3,581	1.2	- 3.9	456	382	279	13.2	11.2	7.8
United States									7.0	7.5	7.1
United States - Seasonally adjusted									7.1	7.2	7.3

* The data contained in this table updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 *(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	APR 1986[2]	MAR 1986[3]	APR 1985	MAR 1986	APR 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to APR 1986	to APR 1986
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	197.0	196.5	198.8	0.3	- 0.9
Manufacturing	7.9	7.8	7.5	1.3	5.3
Durable Goods	3.8	3.7	3.6	2.7	5.6
Nondurable Goods	4.1	4.2	3.9	- 2.4	5.1
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.0	- 10.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	189.1	188.7	191.3	0.2	- 1.2
Mining	22.6	23.9	24.5	- 5.4	- 7.8
Contract Construction	13.5	12.2	14.7	10.7	- 8.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.6	14.8	15.1	- 1.4	- 3.3
Railroad Transportation	2.9	2.9	2.5	0.0	16.0
Transportation except Railroads	5.3	5.5	5.9	- 3.6	- 10.2
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.3	6.4	6.7	- 1.6	- 6.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	42.8	42.6	44.6	0.5	- 4.0
Wholesale Trade	9.3	9.4	9.4	- 1.1	- 1.1
Retail Trade	33.6	33.3	35.2	0.9	- 4.5
Food Stores	4.9	4.8	5.2	2.1	- 5.8
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.8	5.7	5.9	1.8	- 1.7
Eating & Drinking Places	12.0	11.8	12.7	1.7	- 5.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	7.9	7.9	0.0	0.0
Services	32.9	32.9	31.7	0.0	3.8
Personal Services	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	5.0
Medical & Other Health Services	6.8	6.7	6.2	1.5	9.7
Government	54.8	54.4	52.8	0.7	3.8
Federal Government	7.2	7.0	6.9	2.9	4.3
State & Local Government	47.5	47.4	45.9	0.2	3.5
State Government	14.0	13.9	13.4	0.7	4.5
Local Government	33.5	33.4	32.5	0.3	3.1

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	APR 1986[2]	MAR 1986[3]	APR 1985	MAR 1986	APR 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to APR 1986	to APR 1986
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.6	31.1	32.9	- 1.6	- 7.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.3	29.8	31.5	- 1.7	- 7.0
Mining	3.8	4.1	4.6	- 7.3	- 17.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.6	3.8	4.2	- 5.3	- 14.3
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	- 50.0
Contract Construction	1.6	1.6	1.9	0.0	- 15.8
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.9	2.0	2.1	- 5.0	- 9.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.8	8.8	9.6	0.0	- 8.3
Wholesale Trade	3.0	3.1	3.3	- 3.2	- 9.1
Retail Trade	5.8	5.8	6.3	0.0	- 7.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.5	1.6	6.7	0.0
Services	5.4	5.5	5.7	- 1.8	- 5.3
Government	6.2	6.3	6.0	- 1.6	3.3
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.5	5.6	5.3	- 1.8	3.8
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.1	30.0	29.5	0.3	2.0
Manufacturing	1.1	1.2	1.1	- 8.3	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.0	28.9	28.5	0.3	1.8
Contract Construction	1.6	1.5	1.4	6.7	14.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.4	3.4	3.1	0.0	9.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.5	6.5	6.8	0.0	- 4.4
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Retail Trade	5.8	5.8	6.0	0.0	- 3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0
Government	10.4	10.4	10.2	0.0	2.0
Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.4	0.0	8.3
State & Local Government	7.8	7.8	7.8	0.0	0.0

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag. establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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